5 mines are producing coal in this region.

Survey to find coal deposits by Geological Survey of India

793. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has recently conducted a survey with a view to locate coal deposits; and

(b) if so, what are the areas surveyed so far and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) As per available information during the year 1984, Geological Survey of India carried out exploration for coal in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa and West Bengal. As a result, an additional reserves of 2924 m.t. of coal has been estimated State-wise break up is as follows:

West Bengal ..	1105.72 million tonnes
Madhya Pradesh	557.14 million tonnes
Orissa	490.00 million tonnes
Bihar	750.00 million tonnes
Anhdra .. .. .. Pradesh	21.22 million tonnes

Handing over of the management of Vishveswaraya Iron and Steel Limited to TISCO

794. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to hand over the management of Karnataka's premier steel plant, Visveswaraya Iron and Steel Limited to TISCO; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Visveswaraya Iron and Steel Limited is a State Sector Undertaking of the Government of Karnataka in which Steel Authority of India Limited, a Central Public Sector Undertaking has Minority shareholding There is no proposal before the Government of India to hand over management to TISCO.

IMPORT OF COTTON

795. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA.

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to import cotton during the current year; if so of what varieties;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Cotton Corporation of Indian has opposed this import of cotton on the ground that supply position of cotton of all varieties is comfortable; and

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that the Governments of Maharashtra and Gujarat have pleaded for export of three lakh bales of cotton to provide prices support?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have decided to import one lakh bales of short/medium staple cotton during the current cotton year.

(b) No, Sir.